



By the King.

A Proclamation for better furnishing the Nauy,
and Shipping of the Realme, with able and
skilfull Mariners.



Hereas Wee, for the continuance and maintayning of the Nauigation of this Realme, and to the intent that skilfull Mariners, and Seafaring men, might bee alwayes in readinesse to furnish, aswell Our owne Royall Nauie, as the Shipping of Our Subiects, by Our Proclamation dated the sixt day of August, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne, did straitly inhibite and forbid, That no Mariner, or Seafaring man, Shipwright, or Shipcarpenter whatsoeuer, being Our Subiect, should without expresse licence of Us, or of Our Admirall of England, enter, or attempt, or goe about to enter into the seruice of any forreine Prince, or State, or bee employed out of this Realme, in any seruice whatsoeuer, vnlesse it were in the seruice of Us, or of some of Our liege Subiects:

And whereas by a later Proclamation, dated the seuen and twentieth day of February, then following, wee did signifie Our pleasure, That Our said former Proclamation should be hereafter carefully obserued, and put in exact execution; willing, That all men should take knowledge, and that wee should esteeme the offenders therein, as Fugitiues, and Runagates, forgetting their naturall allegiance and duety to Us and Our Lawes, and accordingly should proceed against them with all severity:

And did furthermore thereby straitly charge and command, That no Mariner, or Seafaring man, should absent, hide, or withdraw himselfe from Our seruice, or Prests, and that all such persons hauing Our Prest money giuen or tendred vnto them, should dutifullly and reuerently receiue the same, and repaire aboard Our Ships, at the times to them limited and assigned, and thenceforth continue in Our seruice, as to the duety of good Subiects appertaineth, and not withdraw themselves, or depart therefrom, without speciall licence, vpon paine to incurre the vttermost severity of Our Lawes to be inflicted vpon them, as malefactors in a very high degree, to the hazard of Our Royall Nauie and seruice.

Now, forasmuch as wee haue receiued Information, That, notwithstanding the strictnesse of Our said Proclamations, there hath followed no redresse of these enorrmous crimes, & contempts,

wee being resolved to meete with all impediments, wherby such Our weighty service is hindered, and offenders hardened and imboldened in their obstinacie, and wilfull contempts, doe hereby straitly inhibite and forbid, That no Owner or Master of any Ship, or vessell, nor any other, setting forth any vessels of Trade, Fishing, or otherwise, doe presume to hire or entertaine any Mariner, or Seafaring man, knowing him to haue offended against the said Proclamations, or either of them, by seruing forreine Prince or State without licence, or by disobeying Our Preests, or abandoning Our service: And if such Owner, Master, or other person, not knowing of the said offences, shall hire or entertaine any such offender or offenders, that forthwith vpon notice of any the said offences, they deliuer such offenders ouer vnto the next Justice of Peace, Maior, Bayliffe, Constable, or other officer, to be imprisoned vntill the said offenders shall giue sufficient Bond and Caution for their forth coming & appearance, in such Court, or place of Justice, vnto which it may appertaine, to be proceeded against, & punished, according to their demerits; and withall, that the said Masters, Owners, & other persons forbear to pay to the said offenders any wages. And further, wee doe straitly charge and command all Our Lieutenants, Deputie Lieutenants, Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bayliffes, Constables, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers and officers, aswell of our Admiralty, as of Our Ports, and also all and euery person and persons, to whom any Commission, Deputation, or Letters of Assistance shall be directed, for the pressing of Mariners, and Seafaring men for Our service, that they shall from time to time vse all possible diligence and indeauour, to apprehend, and cause to be apprehended, aswell all such Mariners & Seafaring men offending, as aforesaid, as also all such Owners, Masters, and others, as contrary to this Our Royall commandement, shall entertaine or hire them, or pay them any wages, or otherwise helpe them to escape the hands of Justice; and such as they shall apprehend, they shall with Certificate of their names and offences, binde ouer to appeare before the Commissioners of Our Name, in London, to be by them committed, & deliuered ouer to the ordinary course of Our Justice, either in our Court of Starrechamber, or of Our Admiralty, or otherwise, as the quality of the offence shall require. And wee likewise charge and command all Preest-masters, and their Assistants, to publish the Names of all such as shall be pressed by them in Our Ports where they are taken, as also to deliuer a note of their names to the officers of Our Ports, & others who are fittest to discover them: And wee haue also giuen order to the Commissioners of Our Navy to make certificate into all parts of this Realme, where they shall thinke it conuenient or vlesfull, of the names of such as shall offend in any of the premisses. And considering that the service now in hand, for the setting forth of Our Fleete, is of great consequence, both for the safety of Our Kingdomes, and for the honour of Our Imperiall Crowne and Dignity, That all the eyes and hearts of Our loving Subiects, are cast vpon it, and expect the supplying thereof to be made with extraordinary care; wee haue thought fit to recommend the same in this extraordinary manner, intending hereafter to make such further prouision against all such offenders, as are not hereby made sensible of their dueties, and ranged to obedience, as the necessity and importance of Our service at this time, and other times shall require.

Giuen at Our Court at Theobalds the twentieth day of March, in the two and twentieth yeere of Our Raigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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